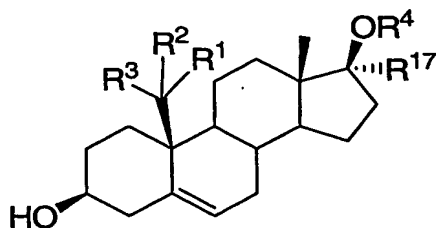


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula:



- 5 wherein R¹ is fluoro, OR⁴, N(R⁴)₂, C₍₁₋₃₎ alkyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkenyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkynyl, C₍₁₋₃₎ acyl or cyano;
 R² is hydrogen, fluoro, C₍₁₋₃₎ alkyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkenyl or C₍₂₋₅₎ alkynyl;
 R³ is hydrogen, fluoro, C₍₁₋₃₎ alkyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkenyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkynyl, or CR¹R²R⁵,
 or R² and R³ taken together represent a carbonyl group;
 each R⁴ is independently hydrogen or C₍₁₋₃₎ alkyl;
 10 R⁵ is hydrogen, fluoro, C₍₁₋₃₎ alkyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkenyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkynyl, or cyano;
 R¹⁷ is hydrogen, C₍₁₋₅₎ alkyl, C₍₁₋₅₎ acyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkenyl, or C₍₂₋₅₎ alkynyl;
 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and stereoisomers thereof.

2. The compound of Claim 1 wherein

- 15 R¹ is fluoro, C₍₁₋₃₎ alkyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkenyl or C₍₂₋₅₎ alkynyl;
 R² is hydrogen, methyl or fluoro;
 R³ is hydrogen, methyl or fluoro;
 R¹⁷ is hydrogen, C₍₁₋₅₎ alkyl, C₍₂₋₅₎ alkenyl or C₍₂₋₅₎ alkynyl;
 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and stereoisomers thereof.

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3. The compound of Claim 2 wherein

- R¹ is fluoro, methyl, vinyl or ethynyl;
 R² is hydrogen or fluoro;
 R³ is hydrogen or fluoro;
 25 R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl;
 R¹⁷ is hydrogen, methyl or ethynyl;
 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and stereoisomers thereof.

4. The compound of Claim 1 selected from
- 19-methyl-3 β ,17 β -androst-5-ene diol;
3 β ,17 β ,19-androst-5-ene triol;
19-methyl-3 β ,17 β ,19-androst-5-ene triol ;
- 5 19-fluoro-3 β ,17 β -androst-5-ene diol;
19-cyano-3 β ,17 β -androst-5-ene diol;
19, 19, 19-trifluoro-3 β ,17 β -androst-5-ene diol;
19-vinyl-3 β ,17 β -androst-5-ene diol;
19-ethynyl-3 β ,17 β -androst-5-ene diol;
- 10 17 α -ethynyl-3 β ,17 β ,19-androst-5-ene triol;
17 α -ethynyl-19-methyl-3 β ,17 β -androst-5-ene diol;
17 α -ethynyl-19-methyl-3 β -hydroxy-17 β -methoxy-androst-5-ene;
17-O-methyl-19-methyl-3 β ,17 β -androst-5-ene diol;
17-O-methyl-17 α -ethynyl-19-methyl-3 β ,17 β -androst-5-ene diol;
- 15 or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and stereoisomers thereof.

5. The use of a compound of Claim 1 for the preparation of a medicament useful in the treatment of a disease selected from: bone loss, bone fractures, osteoporosis, metastatic bone disease, Paget's disease, periodontal disease, cartilage degeneration, endometriosis, uterine fibroid disease, hot
- 20 flashes, increased levels of LDL cholesterol, cardiovascular disease, impairment of cognitive functioning, cerebral degenerative disorders, restenosis, gynecomastia, vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation, obesity, incontinence, anxiety, depression resulting from an estrogen deficiency, inflammation, inflammatory bowel disease, sexual dysfunction, hypertension, retinal degeneration or estrogen dependent cancer.

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6. The use of Claim 5 wherein the disease is hot flashes.

7. The use of Claim 5 further comprising another agent selected from: an organic bisphosphonate; a cathepsin K inhibitor; an estrogen; an estrogen receptor modulator; an androgen
- 30 receptor modulator; an inhibitor of osteoclast proton ATPase; an inhibitor of HMG-CoA reductase; an integrin receptor antagonist; an osteoblast anabolic agent; calcitonin; Vitamin D; a synthetic Vitamin D analogue; or a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor; an aromatase inhibitor; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or mixture thereof.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 and another agent selected from: an organic bisphosphonate; a cathepsin K inhibitor; an estrogen; an estrogen receptor modulator; an androgen receptor modulator; an inhibitor of osteoclast proton ATPase; an inhibitor of HMG-CoA reductase; an integrin receptor antagonist; an osteoblast anabolic agent;
- 5 calcitonin; Vitamin D; a synthetic Vitamin D analogue; or a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor; an aromatase inhibitor; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or mixture thereof.
9. The composition of Claim 8 wherein the agent is an organic bisphosphonate.
- 10 10. The composition of Claim 9 wherein the organic bisphosphonate is alendronate.